

## Biodiversity and its relationships with toponymy in Dhule and Nandurbar districts (Maharashtra: India)

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### ABSTRACT

Man was/is a watchful observer of the surrounding nature what it could offer him. Apart from concrete material use, he also tried the elements of biodiversity for developing abstract relationships like worships, songs, tales, proverbs, etc. The art of communication has its origin at the dawn of civilization. Man coined words for communication. Toponymy is one such way of communication about places, villages, cities, etc. The present author, in this paper, intends to promote dissemination of knowledge encoded in the names of villages or localities of forests in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra. It sheds light on 26 plant species and 12 animal species employed for coining their names. It also seeks utility of toponymic information from socio-economic, phytogeographical and cultural aspects of the said region. Toponymy of a region is thus indicative of local biodiversity.

**Key Words:** Toponymy, Biodiversity, Dhule-Nandurbar Districts.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Relationship of biodiversity

Biodiversity has its bearing on relationships on civilization, whether the relationships *inter se* is concrete or abstract. Naming of objects, whether plants, animals or localities is, an human instinct. It aids in communication locally as well as internationally.

#### 1.2. Earlier research

Names of places, villages, cities, countries or forests have been also based on elements of biodiversity, either plants or animals (Trivedi, 1993; Mohanty and Tripathy, 2011). Present author endeavored to divulge such bases of nomenclature of some villages, localities or cities in northern part of Maharashtra (Pawar and Patil, 2012 a,b; Tayade and Patil, 2012 a,b). The present paper re-focuses toponymy in the said region intending addition of some hidden information hitherto untapped.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

During botanisation in the last decade, author came across some interesting names of villages, forest localities, etc. based on plants or animals in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra. Further enquiries were made consulting seniors or heads of villages or hamlets and knowledgeable individuals inhabiting the region. Names of villages are also availed from the erstwhile Dhule District Gazetteer (1974). Dhule district is presently divided into Dhule (proper) and Nandurbar districts. Perceptions received from different informants coupled with personal observations from the standpoint of origin of names were noted. The scientific names of plants/animals, root word of locality, their family, etc. were searched out consulting scientific literature (Patil, 2003; Anonymous, 1974). The information accrued during different visits is provided in Table I, II and III.

## 3. OBSERVATIONS

Biodiversity has impact on abstract relationship of mankind. This paper attempts to reveal nomenclature of villages and other places based on plant and animal species. Names of villages, hamlets and forest localities were noted during field surveys. These are presented in the Tables 1-3.

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Relationship of biodiversity and past work

Mankind is intimately connected with his ambient biodiversity in view of his daily sustenance. He developed relationships with it, both concrete and abstract. In latter case, although he does not use and exhaust the material world; he is benefitted through communications, feelings and satisfaction. He always felt a need to name some objects, whether plants, animals or places. Names of plants and animals have been coined based on various sources (Patil, 2007, 2008, 2009, 1998). However; names of places, localities, villages, hamlets, etc. have not been studied satisfactorily. There are very few records of researches related to their toponymy. Present author have tried to bring them under limelight (Tayade and Patil, 2012 a,b). Dhule and Nandurbar districts were studied earlier on this line (Pawar and Patil, 2012). The present account is on the similar line in these districts with some more information.

### 4.2. Analysis of present work based on plant species

This paper accounts for both plant and animal species employed to coin names of villages or localities in forest areas. Earlier, Pawar and Patil (2012) reported 47 species belonging to 39 genera and 25 families of angiosperms from this region. This paper includes 26 plant species belonging to 22 genera and 21 families of angiosperms (Table 1 & 3). Of these, tree species (18) are more frequently picked up while coining names of villages. Herbs (03) and shrubs/lianas (03) find lesser chances. Indigenous wild 20 species appeared selected for toponymy, whereas, exclusively cultivated/planted species are reported by five species. Few species are both wild as well as cultivated e.g. *Ficus religiosa*, *F. benghalensis*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Madhuca longifolia*, *Limonia acidissima*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Tamarindus indica*. It appears that the plant species which are dominant as compared to other species have been generally favoured while coining village names. However, few species economically important have been also selected e.g. *Cajan uscajan* (a pulse), *Psidium guajava* (edible fruit yielder), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (edible fruit yielder) and *Chlorophytum tuberosum* (root tubers medicinally important). Some species thought locally religious in Hindus also find place e.g. *Ficus religiosa*, *F. benghalensis*. It is worth to note that few plant species find more places in naming villages e.g. *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Psidium guajava*, *Ficus benghalensis*, etc. Thus local plant diversity is denoted in toponymy of villages or localities. Toponymy thus reflects phytogeographical distribution of plants, agricultural and economic significance of an area, besides religious aspect of the local people. Generally, the plant species which thrive better are selected and therefore, these plant species should be given priority in afforestation programmes or arboriculture. The local plant names are suffixed or prefixed by some other words e.g. kund, pata, pur, kadava, khuto, pada, khede, kathi, bari, etc. Forest areas are also marked out by dominant plant species if they are named after a some plant species (Table 3). Such toponymy mostly helps locally.

### 4.3. Analysis of present work based on animal species

This paper also accounts for animal species used for coining village names. Total 12 species belonging 12 genera and 12 families find places in toponymy of villages. Majority of them are indigenous species. However, camel and 'sarang' do not belong to this region. They are mammals, reptiles or birds. This is also indicative of the knowledge of local inhabitants about fauna of the region. In present times, although rarity of some these is noted but it suggests that once they were common.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this report, 26 plant species and 12 animal species are found integrated with names of various localities in Dhule and Nandurbar districts (India). Still more plant and animal species may be linked with toponymy in other districts. These studies are in order. Similar investigation will reveal association of elements of biodiversity with toponymy. It should be undertaken as it informs on phytogeography and socio-economic aspects, besides cultural aspect. The present author attempted at revealing past association of plants and animals in this region. Such attempts may help benefit about environmental problems, planning and management of biota locally.

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**Table 1**

Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	Kalambir	Sakri	Kalam	<i>Mitragynaparfifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth. Rubiaceae
2.	Borkund	Dhule	Bor	<i>Ziziphusmauritiana</i> Lamk. Rhamnaceae
3.	Borzar	Navapur	Bor	<i>Ziziphusmauritiana</i> Lamk. Rhamnaceae
4.	Umarpata	Sakri	Umar, Umbar	<i>Ficusracemosa</i> L. Moraceae
5.	Vadkhalambi	Navapur	Wad	<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i> L. Moraceae
6.	Kakadada		Kakad	<i>Garugapinnata</i> Roxb. Burseraceae
7.	Balamrai	Nandurbar	Aam	<i>Mangiferaindica</i> L. Anacardiaceae
8.	Kalamba	Nandurbar	Amba	<i>Mangiferaindica</i> L. Anacardiaceae
9.	Karajve	Nandurbar	Karanj	<i>Pongamia</i> pinnata (L.) Pierre Fabaceae
10.	Wadzakan	Nandurbar	Wad	<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i> L. Moraceae
11.	Devmogra	Nandurbar	Mogra	<i>Jasminumsambae</i> (L.) Ait. Oleaceae
12.	Borchak	Navapur	Bor	<i>Ziziphusmauritiana</i> Lamk. Rhamnaceae
13.	Borad	Taloda	Bor	<i>Ziziphusmauritiana</i> Lamk. Rhamnaceae
14.	Gavhali	Akkalkuwa	Gahu	<i>Triticumaestivum</i> L. Poaceae
15.	Hingani	Shahada	Hingan	<i>Balanitesaegyptiaca</i> (L.) Del. Balanitaceae
16.	Hingane	Dhule	Hingan	<i>Balanitesaegyptiaca</i> (L.) Del. Balanitaceae
17.	Jam	Shahada	Jam	<i>Psidiumguajava</i> L. Myrtaceae
18.	Jamkhel	Sakri	Jam	<i>Psidiumguajava</i> L. Myrtaceae
19.	Jamaki	Sakri	Jam	<i>Psidiumguajava</i> L. Myrtaceae
20.	Jamali	Akkalkuwa	Jam	<i>Psidiumumguajava</i> L. Myrtaceae
21.	Jirapur	Sakri	Jira	<i>Cuminumcynamimum</i> Linn. Apiaceae
22.	Junanagarmutha	Akkalkuwa	Nagarmutha	<i>Cyperusrotundus</i> L. Cyperaceae

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Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
23.	Kadavamahu	Akkalkuwa	Mahu	<i>Madhucalongifolia</i> (Koen.) Macbr. Sapotaceae
24.	Kakarde	Shahada	Kakad	<i>Garugapinnata</i> Roxb. Burseraceae
25.	Kalamsare	Shirpur, Taloda	Kalam	<i>Mitragynaparfifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
26.	Kalambe	Sakri	Kalam	<i>Mitragynaparfifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
27.	Kalambhir	Sakri	Kalam	<i>Mitragynaparfifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
28.	Kalambu	Shahada	Kalam	<i>Mitragynaparfifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
29.	Kavathi	Dhule	Kavath	<i>Limoniaacidissima</i> L. Rutaceae
30.	Kavathe	Sakri	Kavath	<i>Limoniaacidissima</i> L. Rutaceae
31.	Nimkhedi	Dhule	Nim	<i>Azadirachtaindica</i> A.Juss. Meliaceae
32.	Padalde	Dhule, Shahada	Padal	<i>Stereospermumchelonoides</i> DC. Bignoniaceae
33.	Padalpur	Taloda	Padal	<i>Stereospermumchelonoides</i> DC. Bignoniaceae
34.	Pimpalkhuta	Akkalkuwa	Pimpal	<i>Ficusreligiosa</i> L. Moraceae
35.	Pimparpada	Taloda	Pimpali, Pimpar	<i>Ficusamplissima</i> J.E.Sm. Moraceae
36.	Pimpad	Shindkheda	Pimpri	<i>Ficusamplissima</i> J.E.Sm. Moraceae
37.	Pimpri	Shirpur	Pimpri	<i>Ficusamplissima</i> J.E.Sm. Moraceae
38.	Torkhede	Shahada	Tor	<i>Cajanuscajan</i> (L.) Millisp. Fabaceae
39.	Umarpata	Sakri	Umar	<i>Ficusracemosa</i> L. Moraceae
40.	Umarati	Shahada	Umar	<i>Ficusracemosa</i> L. Moraceae
41.	Umari	Taloda	Umar	<i>Ficusracemosa</i> L. Moraceae
42.	Vadchil	Shahada	Vad	<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i> L. Moraceae
43.	Vadkhut	Navapur	Vad	<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i> L. Moraceae
44.	Vadane	Dhule	Vad	<i>Ficusbenghalensis</i> L. Moraceae
45.	Chinchkathi	Dhadgaon	Chinch	<i>Tamarindusindica</i> L. Caesalpinaeae

**Table 1**

Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
46.	Chilhare	Shirpur	Chilhar	<i>Caesalpiniadecapetala</i> (Roth) Alst. <i>Caesalpiniaceae</i>
47.	Kakadmal	Shirpur	Kakad	<i>Garugapinnata</i> Roxb. <i>Burseraceae</i>
48.	Khairkhuti	Shirpur	Khair	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Roxb.) Willd. <i>Mimosaceae</i>
49.	Kusumvari	Dhadgaon	Kusum	<i>Schleicheraoleosa</i> (Lour.) Oken
50.	Pimpalbari	Dhadgaon	Pimpal	<i>Ficusreligiosa</i> L. <i>Moraceae</i>

**Table 2**

Animal Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	Morkaranja	Sakri	Mor	<i>Pavocristatus</i> Linn. <i>Phasianinae</i>
2.	Manjari	Sakri	Manjar	<i>Felismugipes</i> Burchell <i>Felidae</i>
3.	Nagziri	Navapur	Nag	<i>Najanaja</i> Linn. <i>Elapidae</i>
4.	Savar	Taloda	Savar	<i>Zaglossusatteboroughi</i> Flannery & Groves <i>Tachyglossidae</i>
5.	Nagsar	Nandurbar	Nag	<i>Najanaja</i> Linn. <i>Elapidae</i>
6.	Waghsheda	Nandurbar	(Panther)	<i>Pantheratigris</i> Linn. <i>Felidae</i>
7.	Bilmanjare	Navapur	Manjar	<i>Felisnigripes</i> Burchell <i>Felidae</i>
8.	Dhamandhar	Sakri	Dhaman	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i> Linn. <i>Columbrinae</i>
9.	Dhamangav	Dhule	Dhaman	<i>Ptyas mucosa</i> Linn. <i>Columbrinae</i>
10.	Gidhade	Shirpur	Gidhad	<i>Gyps africanus</i> Salvadori <i>Accipitridae</i>
11.	Khekade	Navapur	Khekada	<i>Pachygraspusmarmoratus</i> Fabricius <i>Grasidae</i>
12.	Manjare	Nandurbar	Manjar	<i>Felisnigripes</i> Burchell <i>Felidae</i>
13.	Manjari	Sakri	Manjar	<i>Felisnigripes</i> Burchell <i>Felidae</i>

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Animal Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
14.	Manjarod	Shirpur	Manjar	<i>Felisnigripes</i> Burchell Felidae
15.	Sarangkheda	Shahada	Sarang	<i>Ephippiorynchusasiaticus</i> Lattam Ciconiidae
16.	Untavad	Shirpur Shahada	Unt	<i>Camelusbactrianus</i> Linn. Camelidae
17.	Vaghadi	Shirpur Sindhkheda	Vagh	<i>Pantheratigris</i> Linn.
18.	Vaghode	Nandurbar Sindhkheda	Vagh	<i>Pantheratigris</i> Linn.
19.	Vinchur	Dhule	Vinchu	<i>Leiurusquinquestriatus</i> C.L. Koch. Buthidae
20.	Nagzhiri	Shahada	Nag	<i>Najanaja</i> Linn.
21.	Makadkund	Dhadgaon	Makad	<i>Trachypithecusgeeikhajuria</i> Hominidae

**Table 3**

Names of Localities in Forest Areas after Plants/Animals

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	PachyaAmba	Sakri	Amba	<i>Mangifera</i> <i>indica</i> L. Anacardiaceae
2.	Umbarpani Zara	Sakri	Umbar	<i>Ficus</i> <i>racemosa</i> L. Moraceae
3.	MordhinaKada	Sakri	Mor	<i>Pavocristatus</i> Linn.
4.	KakodnaPathada	Sakri	Kakod, Kakad	<i>Garuga</i> <i>pinnata</i> Roxb. Bursaraceae
5.	Dudhyagad	Sakri	Dudhi	<i>Wrightia</i> <i>tinctoria</i> R. Br. Apocynaceae
6.	BorunaDhur	Sakri	Boru	<i>Sorghum</i> <i>helepense</i> (L.) Pers. Poaceae
7.	Pimparbara	Sakri	Pimpar, Pimpal	<i>Ficus</i> <i>racemosa</i> L. Moraceae
8.	SadadaDhur	Sakri	Sadada	<i>Terminalia</i> <i>acrenulata</i> Roth Combretaceae
9.	Chilardand	Sakri	Chilar	<i>Caesalpinia</i> <i>decapetala</i> (Roth) Alst. Caesalpiniaceae
10.	Umbari	Sakri	Umbar	<i>Ficus</i> <i>racemosa</i> L. Moraceae
11.	Boranimali	Sakri	Bor	<i>Ziziphus</i> <i>mauritana</i> Lamk. Rhamnaceae
12.	Dombadkani	Sakri	Dombad, Dombali	<i>Chlorophytum</i> <i>tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker Liliaceae

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Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
13.	Pimparidara	Sakri	Pimpari	<i>Ficus amplissima</i> J.E.Sm. Moraceae
14.	Khokadi	Sakri	Khokad	<i>Lipocarcinus vernalis</i> Linn. Portunidae